

Mason Matters!

SPRING 2014

Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross

MASON GOVERNMENTAL CENTER, 6507 COLUMBIA PIKE, ANNANDALE, VA 22003

PHONE: 703/256-7717 FAX: 703/354-8419

E-MAIL: mason@fairfaxcounty.gov

A Message From Supervisor Gross

Special Interest Articles:

- **Spotlight by Starlight Summer Concerts**
- **UPC Urges Participation in National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day**
- **Land Use News**
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- **Mason District Budget Town Meeting March 18**

Dear Mason District Neighbor:

As we look forward to the arrival of spring after a cold and snowy winter, county residents also prepare for discussions about the annual county budget. County Executive Edward L. Long, Jr. released his proposed budget for FY2015 on February 25. The Board of Supervisors will consider his recommendations, hear from the public, make changes to the proposal, and adopt a final budget on April 29. The county's new fiscal year begins on July 1. Revenues are constrained again this year, with property values increasing only slightly as the slow recovery from the recession continues. More than 75 percent of the revenue to support the county budget is derived from real estate taxes on residential, commercial, and industrial properties, and from personal property taxes. A portion of the state sales tax, some state and federal program funding, and miscellaneous fees round out the General Fund budget, which is larger than several states and some countries!

Fairfax County's budget funds schools, public safety, parks, libraries, human services, the courts, our share of the Metro system, and many other services, which are crucial to maintaining our enviable quality of life. I will host a Budget Town Meeting on Tuesday, March 18, at 7 p.m., at Annandale High School's Lecture Hall. Check the back page of this newsletter for more information. Budget public hearings are scheduled for April 8, 9, and 10. The proposed budget can be accessed on-line at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/.

One of the departments funded by the budget that serves Mason District residents is the Department of Code Compliance (DCC). DCC is one of the newest agencies in the county, and its cross-trained professionals enforce the Zoning Ordinance, Building Codes, and other safety codes. DCC's work is a partnership with the community to promote and protect the integrity of our neighborhoods. My office works closely with DCC inspectors, as we all seek to educate the community about the law, and achieve compliance in most instances. When voluntary compliance is not achieved, a judgment by the courts is sought. Last year, DCC inspectors investigated more than 8500 complaints across the county. Most violators came into voluntary compliance, some complaints were unfounded (violation could not be proven), and about 10 percent resulted in litigation.

If you have a concern about possible Code Compliance violations in your neighborhood, you may file a complaint through my office, call DCC directly at 703-324-1300 (TTY 711), or submit a complaint on-line at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/code. Please be as specific as you can about the type of suspected violation, and the precise street address in question. If you are unsure about reporting, you can call my office to discuss your concerns before making a formal complaint. Typical issues include suspected multiple occupancy, running a business out of a residence, outdoor storage (including excess storage in carports), commercial vehicles parked in neighborhoods, unpermitted renovations, sheds that may be too large or too close to the property line, dilapidated structures, and parking on the grass. Mason District has wonderful neighborhoods, with many residents who take great pride in their homes and surroundings. Working together, we can achieve positive outcomes on those fewer occasions when our community norms may be at risk.

Have a wonderful spring, and please do not hesitate to get in touch with me about any county-related matter of interest to you.



LOOK FOR **MASON MATTERS!** THE TELEVISION SHOW
on Cable Channel 16
EVERY THURSDAY AT 7 P.M.
EVERY FRIDAY & SUNDAY AT 6:30 P.M.
DAILY ON THE WEB AT WWW.FAIRFAXCOUNTY.GOV/MASON



Spotlight by Starlight Summer Concerts Schedule



Mason District Park

Spotlight by Starlight is a free summer concert series presented by the Fairfax County Park Authority and the Friends of Mason District Park. All performances at the Newton W. Edwards Amphitheatre at Mason District Park, 6621 Columbia Pike in Annandale, are on Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday beginning at 7:30 p.m. Performances for children on Saturday (not listed) begin at 10 a.m. Shows are cancelled in the event of rain. For rain cancellation, call 703-324-SHOW (7469). The schedule is subject to change. For a complete and updated listing, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance after May 1, 2014.

JUNE

- 1 The TOAST Big Band (Big Band/Swing)
- 4 The David Kitchen Band (Pop/Rock)
- 6 The United States Air Force "Singing Sergeants" (Chorale)
- 8 City of Fairfax "Concert Band" (Concert Band)
- 11 The Danger Zone (Rock)
- 13 Mariachi Los Amigos (Mariachi)
- 15 Washington Balalaika Orchestra (Russian)
- 18 The Capital Focus Jazz Band (Jazz)
- 20 Sofia Tosello & Tangolando (Latin-American Jazz)
- 22 Kings Park Band (Big Band)
- 25 Willem Moller & Bruce Ewan (Blues)
- 27 Lori Williams & Friends (Jazz)
- 29 Solas (Irish)

JULY

- 2 Swing Shift (Big Band/Swing)
- 4 NO PERFORMANCE
- 6 The NOVA Annandale Symphony Orchestra (Pop)
- 9 The Stray Birds (Bluegrass)
- 11 Wayne Henderson with Jeff Little and Hellen White (Bluegrass)
- 13 National Concert Band of America (Big Band)
- 16 Memphis 59 (Roots-Rock, Alt-Country)
- 18 HuDost (Middle-Eastern Sofi Alternative)
- 20 The Capitol Steps (Satirical Revue)
- 23 Brad and Ken Kolodner (Roots Music)
- 25 Tom Principato (Blues)
- 27 Incendio (Latin)
- 30 Craig Gildner & The Blue Sky 5 (Jazz)

AUGUST

- 1 Bruce Molsky & The Jumpsteady Boys (Old-Time)
- 3 Claire Lynch Band (Bluegrass)
- 6 Andrew Acosta String Band (Bluegrass)
- 8 Tom Paxton (Folk)
- 10 The Tom Cunningham Orchestra (Big Band)
- 13 Gallagher, Stang, and Lewis (Rock)
- 15 MSG - The Acoustic Blues Trio (Piedmont Blues)
- 17 Samantha Fish (Blues)
- 20 The Hot Seats (Bluegrass)
- 22 Kayhan Kalhor (Persian Traditional Music)
- 24 The Hot Society Orchestra of Washington (20s & 30s Jazz)
- 27 Pending Confirmation
- 29 Quin Tango (Tango Music)
- 31 The New Dominion Band (Variety)

Ossian Hall Park

Ossian Hall Park is located at 7900 Heritage Drive in Annandale. All performances are scheduled for Saturdays at 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. Bring a blanket or bring your own chair.

JUNE

- 7 Chinese Cultural Heritage Night (Dance/Music)
- 14 West African Cultural Heritage Night (Dance/Music)
- 21 Taiwanese Cultural Heritage Night (Dance/Music)
- 28 Irish Cultural Heritage Night (Dance/Music)

JULY

- 5 Pending Confirmation
- 12 Pending Confirmation
- 19 Indonesian Cultural Heritage Night (Dance/Music)
- 26 Bolivian Cultural Heritage Night "Sangre Boliviana" (Dance/Music)

AUGUST

- 2 Vietnamese Cultural Heritage Night (Dance/Music)
- 9 Korean Cultural Heritage Night (Dance/Music)
- 16 Pending Confirmation
- 23 Peruvian Cultural Heritage Night (Dance/Music)
- 30 Columbian Cultural Heritage Night "El Tayrona" (Dance/Music)



(L-R) This winter, Karen Pallansch, executive director of Alexandria Renew Enterprises and board member of the Virginia Water Environmental Association, presented Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross with the association's Public Official Award in recognition of significant contribution in the areas of Clean Water Legislation, Public Policy, or Government Service that resulted in improvements to the water environment.

UPC Urges Participation in National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

The Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County, in collaboration with the Fairfax County Police Department, Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board, and the Office of Public Private Partnerships, will collect unwanted, unused, and expired medications on Saturday, **April 26, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.** Residents may drop off prescription drugs at:

**Mason District Station
Front Parking Lot
6507 Columbia Pike
Annandale**

Please bring prescription medications in their original containers, and cross out personal information. Drop off is free and anonymous. For more information and locations, call UPC at 703-938-8723 or visit www.unifiedpreventioncoalition.org.

Land Use News



Annandale Bowling Alley Redevelopment Proposal - The first public meeting for the rezoning application to redevelop the AMF Annandale Lanes Bowling Center was held in January before the Annandale Central Business District Planning Committee. The applicant proposes to rezone the property from the Planned Commercial District (PDC) to the Planned Residential Mixed Use District (PRM) to develop up to 310 multifamily dwelling units with 6,000 square feet of neighborhood with ground floor retail or restaurant use. The Committee recommended approval for a mixed use residential development, and the next public meeting will be held at the Mason District Land Use Committee on March 25, 7:30 p.m. at the Mason District Governmental Center. The public is encouraged to comment on this application as the process continues.



New Elementary School in Seven Corners - Fairfax County Public Schools held a well-attended meeting on February 5 at Bailey's Elementary School to present interior building plans for the new elementary school proposed for 6245 Leesburg Pike. This elementary school would be the first urban-styled school in Fairfax County, and would serve grades 3 - 5 for Bailey's Elementary. The new school would have state-of-the-art facilities, including a science lab, library, cafeteria, recreational space, and a theatre. Interior renovation is anticipated to begin this spring, and the school will open for classes in Fall 2014.



5600 Columbia Pike Comprehensive Plan Amendment - A Comprehensive Plan Amendment has been authorized to evaluate the land use for 5600 Columbia Pike, a commercially zoned property on the northwest corner of Carlin Springs Road and Columbia Pike that is occupied by an aging, vacant office building. This process will involve several future public meetings, so please follow the Mason District Calendar for the agendas of the Bailey's Crossroads Revitalization Corporation and the Mason District Land Use Committee later this year.



(L-R) On November 2, 2013, Annandale resident Matthew Sonnen, Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross, and Christine Manley of Transurban unveiled a new sign on Gallows Road at I-495. Sonnen designed the sign and worked with VDOT to get it installed as part of his Eagle Scout project. Members of Troop 1532 helped with refurbishing the median and planting a flower bed. A 495 Express Lanes Community Grant from Transurban-Fluor funded the project.

Native Seedlings Sale Features Bee-Friendly Landscape

The Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District is featuring a Bee-Friendly collection of Winterberry, Buttonbush, Serviceberry, Indigobush, and Elderberry for \$16.95. Bare Root Trees also are back, including Black Gum, Persimmon, and American Plum for \$11.95. Both collections include two of each varieties of plantings. Place your pre-paid order by April 28, or while supplies last. To see images and scientific names visit the Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/seedlingsale.htm, or call 703-324-1460 for more information.

Coming Attractions

- **Culmore Multicultural Day 2014** will be held on Saturday, April 5, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Bailey's Elementary School, 6111 Knollwood Drive in Falls Church. Enjoy live music, folkloric dancers, children's activities, and more. Admission is free. For more information, call the Fairfax County Park Authority at 703-324-8514 or the Culmore Family Resource Center at 703-379-5217.
- The **Grand Opening of Green Spring's Garden Gate Plant Shop** will be held on April 5, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens Park, 4603 Green Spring Road in Alexandria (entrance off Braddock Road at Witch Hazel Road). Local growers offer shrubs, native plants, unique perennials and annuals, wildflowers, and much more. For more information, call 703-642-5173, or visit the Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring.
- The Friends of the **George Mason Regional Library** will co-host the ever-popular, **semi-annual book sale** on May 1, 5 - 9 p.m.; May 2, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; May 3, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; and May 4, 12 - 5 p.m. Books for all ages, plus CDs, videos, audio books and rare books are featured. The book sale will be at the library, 7001 Little River Turnpike in Annandale.
- The Fairfax County Solid Waste Management Program will host a **Household Hazardous Waste Collection** on May 17, from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., at the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale. More information about these and other recycling events are available online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/recycling.

Community Notes

- AARP volunteers are providing free tax help to residents **now until April 15** at the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale. Walk-in service is available on Mondays and Thursdays: 1- 8 p.m.; Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays: 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.; and Saturdays: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. All returns are filed electronically. For more information, visit the Web site at www.aarp.org/taxaide, or call 1-888-227-7669.
- The Spring 2014 Culmore Cleanup is scheduled for **Saturday, April 26**, 9 a.m. to 12 noon. To sign up and for more information, visit www.facebook.com/culmorecleanupday, or send an e-mail to mason@fairfaxcounty.gov. Keep our community clean all year!
- The ACCA (Annandale Christian Community for Action) is a volunteer organization serving neighbors in dire need, especially for furniture. Please call 703-256-9513 and ACCA will pick up your donated furniture and give you a tax deductible receipt. The most needed items are mattresses/box springs (single, double, or queen size) sofas (not sleeper types), kitchen/dining room tables, and chairs, chests of drawers/dressers, coffee tables, end tables, and microwaves.
- Fairfax Court Appointed Special Advocates is hosting information sessions for people interested in being advocates for abused or neglected children. Sessions are held twice monthly in preparation for the next training class. Bilingual volunteers are needed. For information session dates and times, visit www.casafairfax.org, or call Elisa Kosarin, associate director for recruitment and training at 703-273-3526, ext. 22, or send an e-mail ekosarin@casafairfax.org.

Mason District's Budget Town Meeting

Tuesday, March 18 at 7 p.m.

Annandale High School Lecture Hall (Entrance 1)
4700 Medford Drive in Annandale

Join your neighbors and Supervisor Gross in welcoming County Executive Edward L. Long, Jr., who will answer your questions about the proposed FY2015 Fairfax County Budget. Learn about Mr. Long's two-year approach to budget projections.

Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross

6507 Columbia Pike
Annandale, VA 22003

PHONE:
703/256-7717; TTY 711

FAX:
703/354-8419

E-MAIL:
mason@fairfaxcounty.gov

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/
mason](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mason)

Visit us on the Web:

SUPERVISOR PENELOPE A. "PENNY" GROSS
MASON DISTRICT GOVERNMENTAL CENTER
6507 COLUMBIA PIKE
ANNANDALE, VA 22003

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